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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2212  
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0595  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000556

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: ETTC EFIN UNSC PREL I2  
SUBJECT: IRAQI REQUEST TO REMOVE INDIVIDUALS FROM SANCTIONS

REF: A. STATE 71498

1B. BAGHDAD 1940

11. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 4.

12. (SBU) The Secretariat provided USUN on May 3 with a preview of an Iraqi request to the Security Council's 1518 Committee to delist three individuals currently under sanctions for their affiliation with the former Saddam Hussein regime. Once informed of the impending request, the USG asked Iraq, both in New York and in Baghdad, (REFTELS) to delay the submission of its request until Washington had time to review the cases. Despite these attempts to delay, Iraq submitted the formal delisting request on June 6 (sent to IO/PSC via email June 6). The United States and the UK both placed holds on the request.

13. (SBU) Deputy Political Counselor Molly Phee and PolOffs met on June 15 with Ambassador Srood Najib, Head of the Iraqi MFA's Department of International Organizations, who was visiting New York with the Foreign Minister during the mid-year review of UNSCR 1723. Ambassador Najib underlined the importance of these delisting requests to Iraq and expressed frustration at the U.S. hold. He asked USUN to provide him with a list of specific U.S. questions/concerns about the cases so he could provide clarification. He explained that he is personally handling the issue.

14. (SBU) COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST: Ambassador Najib is one of the most influential diplomats in Iraq's Foreign Ministry. He is a key contact for all issues related to Iraq in the Security Council. While he acknowledged that the Iraqi mission in New York had failed to consult in a timely fashion with USUN about this delisting request, which he prepared in November 2006, he argued that these delisting requests are legitimate and explained that he is under political pressure in Baghdad to move forward on this matter. USUN requests guidance as to any questions/concerns regarding the Iraqi requests so that we may engage the Iraqis in a timely fashion.  
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